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8 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

9 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

10  
11 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

CASE NO. 2:24-CR-00029 DAD

12 Plaintiff,

13 v.

UNITED STATES' TRIAL BRIEF

14 KYLE TRAVIS COLTON,

DATE: July 15, 2025

15 Defendant.

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

16 COURT: Hon. Dale A. Drozd

17  
18 I. INTRODUCTION

19 The Court will hear the jury trial in this case beginning on Tuesday, July 15, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

20 The trial is expected to last no more than two court days. The government has requested the appearance  
21 of two witnesses for its case-in-chief. The government plans to offer witness testimony and exhibits into  
22 evidence. Defendant Kyle Travis Colton ("Colton") is not in custody.

23 On February 15, 2024, a Grand Jury returned a one count Indictment, charging Colton with  
24 receipt of child pornography in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(2). The Indictment also contains a  
25 criminal forfeiture allegation under 18 U.S.C. § 2253 for, among other things, any and all interest Colton  
26 has in devices upon which he stored child pornography.

27 On July 24, 2024, Colton filed a motion to suppress, seeking to suppress all evidence discovered  
28 pursuant to a search warrant that authorized the search of Colton's cell phone, residence, and electronic

1 devices, including his computer, based on lack of probable cause. ECF 26. On April 10, 2025, the Court  
 2 denied Colton's motion to suppress in its entirety. ECF 45.

3 On June 8, 2025, Colton filed a motion to dismiss the indictment based on the Presidential  
 4 pardon. ECF 51. On June 23, 2025, the Court denied Colton's motion to dismiss. ECF 57.

5 This trial brief sets forth the elements of the receipt of child pornography offense; the case's  
 6 factual background; anticipated evidentiary issues; and other trial management issues.

7 **II. FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

8 Colton participated in the January 6, 2021 events at the U.S. Capitol building in Washington,  
 9 D.C.<sup>1</sup> As part of an investigation into those events, law enforcement obtained a search warrant to search  
 10 Colton's person, residence and electronic devices. At this time, Colton lived in a shared residence in  
 11 Red Bluff, California, with his two brothers, one of his brother's then-girlfriends, and his 5-year-old  
 12 nephew. On December 15, 2023, the FBI executed the search. During the execution of the search  
 13 warrant, law enforcement located an HP TPN I108 laptop computer in Colton's bedroom on the floor  
 14 next to his bed. Law enforcement also located an Amazon package that had "Kyle Colton" written on it,  
 15 a birthday card on the wall addressed to Colton, and Colton's vehicle registration in his bedroom.

16 A search of the computer revealed that Colton was the only local user of the computer, other than  
 17 the built-in administrator and guest accounts. Colton's account was password protected. Colton's user  
 18 account contained the following details:

19 Username: Kyle  
 20 Full Name: Kyle Colton  
 21 Internet Username: relentless.kyle@gmail.com  
 22 Profile Path: C:\Users\Kyle

23 On January 9, 2024, during the FBI's forensic examination of the computer, law enforcement  
 24 located a file indicative of child sexual abuse material ("CSAM"). Indeed, the reviewer encountered  
 25 over a dozen "thumbnail" images that indicated they were CSAM, including a file labeled "(pthc) NEW

26 <sup>1</sup> Colton was charged and pleaded guilty to charges related to his conduct at the U.S. Capitol  
 27 building. However, prior to sentencing, his case was dismissed pursuant to the President's January 20,  
 28 2025 Executive Order, which pardoned individuals who were charged with conduct related to the events  
 at or near the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021. Presidential Pardon, 90 Fed. Reg. 8331 (Jan. 20,  
 2025)

1 2016 Pedo Childlover 8yo Daddy's Little Girl JM 01.mp4.” The examiner stopped the search, and law  
 2 enforcement obtained a rollover warrant on January 10, 2024, authorizing the search of Colton’s  
 3 computer for CSAM images.

4 A further forensic examination of Colton’s computer by Special Agent Allison Boos revealed  
 5 over 2,500 CSAM images and videos. Agent Boos found numerous images that contained prepubescent  
 6 children engaged in sexually explicit activity with adults and other children. Many of the images were  
 7 downloaded using a Tor Browser<sup>2</sup>, which allows encrypted searches for CSAM online. Agent Boos  
 8 used jumplist<sup>3</sup> data to determine when the CSAM files were last opened and viewed. Agent Boos also  
 9 determined that Colton used the VLC player application on his computer to view some of the images  
 10 and videos. Additionally, in the Tor Browser under the “SNES games” folder, there were three user-  
 11 created bookmarks created between July 2, 2022 through August 3, 2022 with titles indicative of  
 12 CSAM: “Pedo (0-10 years old) – NAUGHTY KIDS,” “Asian American with 10 yo<sup>4</sup> Niece – NEW –  
 13 The Resistance,” and “YATL: Yet Another Topic Links.” Agent Boos also located Colton’s resume on  
 14 the computer, and photographs of minor female children—non-suggestive of CSAM—sitting on  
 15 Colton’s lap.

16 Agent Boos’ examination determined that Colton had downloaded CSAM beginning no later  
 17 than July 2, 2022, and continuing through on or about no later than December 14, 2023 (the dates  
 18 charged in the Indictment). Indeed, the examination found evidence that Colton had been downloading  
 19 and possessing CSAM over a much longer period of time, dating back over a decade. *See* Government’s  
 20 Motion in Limine No. 3, ECF 60.

21 Colton’s two brothers and his brother’s ex-girlfriend testified before the grand jury. All of them  
 22 testified, among other things, that they’ve never downloaded, viewed or accessed CSAM images or

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23 <sup>2</sup> As Special Agent Boos will testify, the TOR browser is an anonymous network. *See United*

24 States v. Henderson

25 , 906 F.3d 1109, 1111 (9th Cir. 2018). A user must download and install the

26 network software on his computer. TOR then allows the user to visit any website without revealing the

27 IP address, geographic location, or other identifying information of the user’s computer by using a

28 network of relay computers. *Id.* TOR also allows users to access “hidden services,” which are websites

that are accessible only through the TOR network and are not accessible publicly. *Id.* at 1111-12.

<sup>3</sup> A jumplist is created automatically by the Windows operating system to assist users in re-opening items last viewed (or opened).

<sup>4</sup> “YO” stands for Years Old.

1 videos.

2 As a result of the CSAM videos and images downloaded on Colton's computer, Colton has been  
 3 charged with one count of receipt of child pornography, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(2). ECF 1.

4 **III. ELEMENTS OF THE OFFENSE**

5 In the sole count of the Indictment, Colton is charged with receipt of child pornography,  
 6 beginning no later than on or about July 22, 2022, and continuing through on or about December 14,  
 7 2023 in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(2).

8 To prove the receipt of child pornography charge, the government must establish the following  
 9 elements beyond a reasonable doubt<sup>5</sup>:

10 (1) between on or about July 2, 2022, and on or about December 14, 2023, the defendant  
 11 knowingly received a visual depiction, with each juror agreeing as to which visual depiction he  
 12 received<sup>6</sup>;

13 (2) the production of the visual depiction involved the use of a minor engaging in sexually  
 14 explicit conduct;

15 (3) the visual depiction was of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct;

16 (4) the defendant knew that the visual depiction was of a minor engaging in sexually explicit  
 17 conduct; and

18 (5) the visual depiction was received using any means or facility of interstate or foreign  
 19 commerce.

20 **A. Applicable Definitions**

21 Many of the terms used in 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(2) are statutorily defined:

22 **1. Minor**

23 A minor is any person younger than eighteen years old. 18 U.S.C. § 2256(1).

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25 <sup>5</sup> The Ninth Circuit does not have a model jury instruction for receipt of child pornography.  
 26 However, the Sixth Circuit model jury instruction 16.05 has an instruction for receipt of child  
 27 pornography, which tracks the statutory language. The parties have submitted a proposed jury  
 28 instruction modeled on the Sixth Circuit model instruction. See ECF 62.

27 <sup>6</sup> The addition of this language is supported by the Ninth Circuit's Criminal Model Jury  
 28 Instruction regarding Specific Issue Unanimity. 9TH CIR. CRIM. JURY INST. 6.27, comment (2022  
 ed., last updated Mar. 2023) (Specific Issue Unanimity). See ECF 62.

## **2. Sexually Explicit Conduct**

Sexually explicit conduct is actual or simulated sexual intercourse, including genital-genital, oral-genital, anal-genital, or oral-anal, whether between persons of the same or opposite sex; bestiality; masturbation; sadistic or masochistic abuse; or lascivious exhibition of the genitals or pubic area of any person. 18 U.S.C. § 2256(2)(A) (West 2018).

### 3. Lascivious Exhibition of the Genitals or Pubic Area

In determining whether a depiction includes lascivious exhibition of the genitals or pubic area, the trier of fact may consider the following list of non-exhaustive factors: (1) whether the focal point of the depiction is the child's genitals or pubic area; (2) whether the setting of the depiction is sexually suggestive, for instance, the setting is in a place or pose generally associated with sexual activity; (3) whether the child is depicted in an unnatural pose or in inappropriate attire, considering the age of the child; (4) whether the child is fully clothed, partially clothed, or nude; (5) whether the depiction suggests sexual coyness or a willingness to engage in sexual activity; or (6) whether the depiction is intended or designed to elicit a sexual response from the viewer. *See United States v. Dost*, 636 F. Supp. 828, 832 (S.D. Cal. 1986), aff'd sub nom. *United States v. Wiegand*, 812 F.2d 1239 (9th Cir. 1987); *United States v. Overton*, 573 F.3d 679, 686-87 (9th Cir. 2009); *see also United States v. Hill*, 459 F.3d 966, 971-72 (9th Cir. 2006); *Johnson*, 639 F.3d at 439-40. A visual depiction need not involve all of these factors to be a lascivious exhibition, and it is for the trier of fact to decide the weight or lack of weight to be given to any of these factors. *See Dost*, 636 F. Supp. at 832; *see also Overton*, 567 F.3d at 686-87.

Additionally, whether a depiction is lewd or lascivious should be viewed from the perspective of the photographer or viewer, not from the perspective of the minor being photographed. “[A]pplied to the conduct of children, lasciviousness is not a characteristic of the child photographed, but of the exhibition which the photographer sets up for an audience that consists of himself and likeminded pedophiles.” *United States v. Wiegand*, 812 F.2d 1239, 1244 (9th Cir. 1987); *see also United States v. Banks*, 556 F.3d 967, 980 (9th Cir. 2009) (“This focus results in a definition of lascivious that criminalizes images ‘so presented by the photographer as to arouse or satisfy the sexual cravings of a voyeur.’”) (quoting *Hill*, 459 F.3d at 972); *Hillie*, 289 F. Supp. 3d at 200 (“An inference of lasciviousness based on the videographer’s intent is particularly appropriate where the images are

1 captured in secret and without the victim's knowledge, because in such cases—especially situations  
2 involving minors—it is less likely the victim will be engaging in what is traditionally considered  
3 sexually explicit conduct.”). An exhibition of the genitals or pubic area may encompass a visual  
4 depiction of a child's genital or pubic area even where those areas are covered by clothing. *See Dost*,  
5 636 F. Supp. at 832; *United States v. Knox*, 32 F.3d 733, 746 n.10 (3d Cir. 1994) (finding that  
6 lasciviousness exhibition of the genitals does not require a nude display of the genitals nor does it  
7 “suggest a requirement that the contours of the genitals or pubic area be discernable or otherwise visible  
8 through the child subject's clothing”); *United States v. Villard*, 885 F.2d 117, 122 (3d Cir. 1989).

9                   **4. Visual Depiction**

10                 Visual depictions include data stored on a computer disk or by an electronic means that is  
11 capable of conversion into a visual image. 18 U.S.C. § 2256(5); *see United States v. Lacy*, 119 F.3d  
12 742, 748 (9th Cir. 1997).

13                   **5. Computer**

14                 A computer is an electronic magnetic, optical, electrochemical, or other high speed data  
15 processing device performing logical, arithmetic, or storage functions. The definition also includes any  
16 data storage facility or communications facility directly related to or operating in conjunction with such  
17 device. It does not include an automated typewriter, portable handheld calculator, or other similar  
18 device. 18 U.S.C. § 2256(6); *see* 18 U.S.C. § 1030(e)(1).

19                   **IV. ANTICIPATED EVIDENCE**

20                   **A. Primary Evidence**

21                 A search of Colton's residence revealed a large quantity of child pornography stored on his  
22 computer that was in his bedroom. However, the government narrowed the scope of the particular  
23 videos and images it will seek to admit at trial. The parties are working on a stipulation that the CSAM  
24 videos and images found on Colton's computer were visual depictions produced using minors engaged  
25 in sexually explicit conduct, among other things. *See* Exhibit S1. However, for the reasons stated in  
26 Section V.B of this trial brief, in addition to the stipulation, the government will seek to admit two  
27 screenshot photographs of the CSAM videos found on Colton's computer. The government will also  
28 elicit testimony from one of the FBI agents about the content of the videos/images, the location of the

1 videos/images, and the meaning of the download date and time associated with the videos/images.

2 Further, the mechanics of the downloads will be explained by Special Agent Allison Boos, in  
3 order to meet the government's burden of proving that the CSAM files were "received." *See United*  
4 *States v. Mohrbacher*, 182 F.3d 1041, 1048 (9th Cir. 1999) ("Received means "downloaded. . . . An  
5 individual who downloads material takes possession or accepts delivery of the visual image; he has  
6 therefore certainly received it.").

7 The government also plans to admit evidence to show that the laptop belonged to Colton. This  
8 will include testimony from one of the FBI agents who executed the residential search warrant at  
9 Colton's home, as well as photographs taken during the search of Colton's bedroom showing Colton's  
10 computer found on a pile of clothes on the floor of his bedroom, next to a package with Colton's address  
11 on it. The descriptions of each photograph are in the Government's Exhibit List. ECF 61. The parties  
12 also anticipate that Colton will stipulate that the computer belonged to him and was located in his  
13 bedroom.

14 **B. Witnesses**

15 A witness list has been concurrently filed with this brief. The government plans to call two  
16 witnesses in this case-in-chief: Special Agent Alexander Jernigan, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and  
17 Special Agent Allison Boos, Federal Bureau of Investigation. However, the government's investigation  
18 of the case and preparation for trial continues, and the government reserves the right to add witnesses  
19 should it become necessary.

20 Agent Jernigan will testify about the search of Colton's residence, including where Colton's  
21 computer was found and the indicia found in Colton's bedroom, including an Amazon package that had  
22 "Kyle Colton" written on it, a birthday card on the wall addressed to Colton, and Colton's vehicle  
23 registration. Agent Jernigan will also lay the foundation for the photographs of the items found in  
24 Colton's bedroom, including his computer.

25 Agent Boos will testify as a dual-role witness, providing both fact and expert opinion testimony.<sup>7</sup>

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26 <sup>7</sup> The government has filed a motion *in limine* outlining the Ninth Circuit's proposed method for  
27 handling dual role witnesses as well as the findings which the Ninth Circuit requires the Court to make  
28 on the record regarding the witness' qualifications and reliability. *See* Government's Motion *in limine*  
No. 2, ECF 59.

1 Generally, Agent Boos will testify about the CSAM videos/images found on Colton's computer,  
 2 attribution evidence found on Colton's computer, and the forensic examination of Colton's computer.  
 3 Agent Boos will lay the foundation for the two CSAM photographs the government intends to admit into  
 4 evidence. Agent Boos will also testify to the interstate commerce element, specifically that the images  
 5 were downloaded, or received, using the internet, a means and instrumentality of interstate commerce.

6 **V. EVIDENTIARY ISSUES**

7 **A. Dual-Role Testimony**

8 The government plans to admit both fact and expert opinion testimony from Special Agent  
 9 Allison Boos in its case-in-chief, otherwise known as dual-role testimony. The Ninth Circuit  
 10 recommends the Court bifurcate dual-role testimony to separate percipient, or factual, testimony from  
 11 expert opinion. *See United States v. Anchrum*, 590 F.3d 795, 803-04 (9th Cir. 2009) (holding that  
 12 district court "avoided blurring the distinction between [the case agent's] distinct role as a lay witness  
 13 and his role as an expert witness" when it "clearly separated [the agent's] testimony into a first 'phase'  
 14 consisting of his percipient observations, and a second 'phase' consisting of his credentials in the field  
 15 of drug trafficking and expert testimony regarding the modus operandi of drug traffickers"). Here, the  
 16 government filed a motion *in limine* regarding the government's proposed procedure for Agent Boos'  
 17 dual-role testimony. *See* ECF 59. The government proposes the separation of Agent Boos factual and  
 18 expert opinion testimony in two separate phases, beginning with her expert testimony.

19 **1. Agent Boos' Expert Opinion Testimony**

20 The government intends to elicit expert opinion testimony from Special Agent Allison Boos  
 21 concerning the forensic examination of Colton's computer, including the extraction. As required by  
 22 Rule 16, the government provided Colton with an expert witness notice for Agent Boos on June 18,  
 23 2025 and her curriculum vitae in discovery on March 26, 2025.

24 "Before admitting expert testimony into evidence, the district court must perform a 'gatekeeping  
 25 role' of ensuring that the testimony is both 'relevant' and 'reliable' under Rule 702." *Id.* at 1188  
 26 (quoting *Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharm., Inc.*, 509 U.S. 579, 597 (1993)). "This gatekeeping obligation  
 27 'applies to all (not just scientific) expert testimony.'" *United States v. Valencia-Lopez*, 971 F.3d 891,  
 28 898 (9th Cir. 2020) (quoting *United States v. Hermanek*, 289 F.3d 1076, 1093 (9th Cir. 2002)). Under

1 recent Ninth Circuit authority, the Court is required to make an explicit finding that the expert's  
 2 testimony is "reliable," meaning that it has "a reliable basis in the knowledge and experience of the  
 3 relevant discipline." *United States v. Ruvalcaba-Garcia*, 923 F.3d 1183, 1188–90 (9th Cir. 2019)  
 4 (internal quotation marks and citation omitted). "An implicit reliability finding is 'not sufficient.'" "*Valencia-Lopez*, 971 F.3d. at 899 n.6 (quoting *Ruvalcaba-Garcia*, 923 F.3d at 1190). "Instead, to satisfy  
 5 its gatekeeping duty under *Daubert*, the court must make an explicit reliability finding." *Id.* at 899 n.6  
 6 (internal quotation marks and citations omitted); see also *United States v. Irons*, 31 F.4th 702, 716 (9th  
 7 Cir. 2022) (same).

9 "[D]istrict courts are vested with broad latitude to decide how to test an expert's reliability"  
 10 because the "reliability analysis is a malleable one tied to the facts of each case." *Ruvalcaba-Garcia*,  
 11 923 F.3d at 1189 (internal quotation marks and citations omitted).

12 Here, in the Government's Motion in Limine No. 2 – Regarding Dual-Role Witness Testimony  
 13 and Expert Testimony, the government outlined a proposed procedure for the Court to find Agent Boos'  
 14 expert testimony reliable. *See* ECF 59. As described in the government's motion, the government will  
 15 first lay the foundation for expert opinion by asking Agent Boos about her education, professional  
 16 training, and law enforcement experience as it pertains to the forensic examination of a computer. Once  
 17 this foundation is laid, the government will ask that Agent Boos be qualified as an expert, with the Court  
 18 making the required findings on the record that Agent Boos' testimony has "a reliable basis in the  
 19 knowledge and experience of the relevant discipline." *Ruvalcaba-Garcia*, 923 F.3d at 1188–90.

20 To assist the Court in making the required reliability findings, a summary of Agent Boos'  
 21 testimony and curriculum vitae were attached to the Government's Motion *in Limine* No. 2. ECF 59.  
 22 Generally, Agent Boos will provide expert testimony regarding the forensic examination of Colton's  
 23 computer, the Tor Browser, and the relevance of Jump lists.

24 **2. Agent Boos' Fact Testimony**

25 Following Agent Boos' expert opinion testimony, the government will shift to Agent Boos' fact  
 26 testimony. To make this bifurcation clear, prior to eliciting fact testimony, the government will state  
 27 something to the effect of, "Agent Boos, we'd like to shift gears from discussing your education,  
 28 professional training, and law enforcement experience, as it pertains to the forensic examination of a

1 computer and discuss the specific facts of this case.” The government will then elicit Agent Boos  
 2 testimony regarding what she found when performing her examination (e.g., the CSAM, where it was  
 3 located, and what it depicted).

4 The government also requests that the Court read the parties’ Joint Proposed Jury Instruction No.  
 5 16 (Dual Role Testimony) before Agent Boos’ testimony and at the end of the case.

6 **B. The Parties’ Stipulations Regarding Certain Evidence and Elements**

7 The parties have agreed to stipulate to certain facts pertaining to the elements of the charged  
 8 offense. Colton has indicated that he will stipulate to descriptions of a number of the CSAM files, that  
 9 they are visual depictions produced using minors engaging in sexually explicit activity, that anyone  
 10 looking at the images would have known they portrayed minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct  
 11 and that were downloading child pornography, and that these visual depictions traveled in interstate  
 12 commerce when they were downloaded. The stipulation will also include the file names and creation  
 13 dates of the visual depictions, which would be read directly to the jurors during the trial. The parties are  
 14 finalizing this stipulation and will file it as soon as it is ready.

15 Notwithstanding the stipulation, the government intends to admit two storyboards<sup>8</sup> displaying  
 16 still photographs of “screenshots” of two of the charged CSAM videos. Defense has indicated it will not  
 17 object to the government introducing these exhibits. These images depict children engaged in sexually  
 18 explicit conduct with adults. “[T]he prosecution is entitled to prove its case by evidence of its own  
 19 choice.” *Old Chief*, 519 U.S. 172, 186 (1997). Indeed, it is “entitled to prove its case free from any  
 20 defendant’s option to stipulate the evidence away.” *Id.* at 189. That rule “rests on good sense” because  
 21 “[a] syllogism is not a story, and a naked proposition in a courtroom may be no match for the robust  
 22 evidence that would be used to prove it.” *Id.* at 186. “The ‘fair and legitimate weight’ of conventional  
 23 evidence showing individual thoughts and acts amounting to a crime reflects the fact that making a case  
 24 with testimony and tangible things not only satisfies the formal definition of an offense, but tells a  
 25 colorful story with descriptive richness.” *Id.* at 187.

26 Although Colton has indicated he will stipulate that the visual depictions are child pornography,  
 27

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28 <sup>8</sup> The storyboards each contain five or six isolated still shots from the CSAM videos.

1 the content of these two still-image exhibits should still be admitted, as “courts are in near-uniform  
2 agreement that the admission of child pornography images or videos is appropriate, even where the  
3 defendant has stipulated, or offered to stipulate, that those images or videos contained child  
4 pornography.” *United States v. Cunningham*, 694 F.3d 372 (3d Cir. 2012) (citing *United States v.*  
5 *Ganoe*, 538 F.3d 1117, 1123-24 (9th Cir. 2008); *United States v. Polouizzi*, 564 F.3d 142, 153 (2d Cir.  
6 2009); *United States v. Schene*, 543 F.3d 627, 643 (10th Cir. 2008); *United States v. Morales-*  
7 *Aldahondo*, 524 F.3d 115, 120 (1st Cir. 2008); *United States v. Sewell*, 457 F.3d 841, 844 (8th Cir.  
8 2006); *United States v. Dodds*, 347 F.3d 893, 898-99 (11th Cir. 2003). Further, the court “is not  
9 required to scrub the trial clean of all evidence that may have an emotional impact.” *Ganoe*, 538 F.3d  
10 at 1124 (citation and internal quotation marks omitted).

11       The photographic evidence is undoubtedly relevant, and it should not be excluded under Rule  
12 403. Exclusion of relevant evidence under Rule 403 should be “cautious and sparing,” because its  
13 “major function is limited to excluding matters of scant or cumulative probative force, dragged in by the  
14 heels for the sake of its prejudicial effect.” *United States v. Hankey*, 203 F.3d 1160, 1172 (9th Cir.  
15 2000). The rule prevents admission only if the danger of unfair prejudice substantially outweighs the  
16 probative value. The government does not deny the emotional impact of the still photographs in this  
17 case. It is for this reason that the government seeks to admit the two storyboards with still images,  
18 rather than the entirety of the videos themselves. This will allow the government to prove its case with  
19 evidence of its own choice, while still protecting the jury from having to view the full content of all the  
20 charged videos and images. Moreover, the Ninth Circuit has endorsed a procedure showing the jury ten  
21 clips of CSAM or less, that were each less than one minute. *See Ganoe*, 538 F.3d at 1123-4.

22       Excluding the two still photographs and solely substituting a stipulation that the images are child  
23 pornography prevents the jury from learning the nature of the depictions found on Colton’s computer.  
24 Evidence of the nature of the CSAM videos is of high evidentiary value for the government to prove that  
25 he knew the images were of children engaged in sexually explicit conduct, and that the images *actually*  
26 depicted children engaged in sexually explicit conduct, which are essential elements of the crime  
27 charged in the indictment. (emphasis added). As mentioned above, the defense is not objecting to the  
28 government admitting these two exhibits.

1           **C.     Proposed Procedure for Handling CSAM images**

2           As mentioned above, the government intends to admit two storyboards containing still  
3 photographs of the CSAM found on Colton's computer. On June 10, 2025, defense counsel viewed the  
4 CSAM images and associated file names with government counsel and Special Agent Allison Boos.  
5 Given the sensitive nature of the images, the government proposes the following procedure to publish  
6 these exhibits for the jurors. The government plans to lay the foundation of the images through the  
7 testimony of Agent Boos. The two exhibits will be in red binders for the jurors, the Court, the witness,  
8 and the defense. For the jury, the binders will be placed on the floor underneath each juror seat. After  
9 the photographs are admitted into evidence, the government will ask the Court to inform the jurors that  
10 they may open the red binders underneath their seats. After the jurors have had a reasonable opportunity  
11 to view the images, each juror will place the binder back underneath their seat and the government will  
12 continue to proceed with their case-in-chief. This proposed procedure will allow the jurors to open and  
13 close their red binder as they see fit for a limited time period.

14           **D.     Computer Files in General**

15           This case involves a substantial amount of digital evidence recovered from Colton's computer.  
16 The standard for authenticating computer records is the same for authenticating other records and does  
17 not vary simply because the original record happened to be in electronic form. *United States v. Vela*,  
18 673 F.2d 86, 90 (5th Cir. 1982) (confirming that "computer evidence is not intrinsically unreliable" and  
19 upholding the admission of computer-generated telephone company records). The witness who testifies  
20 to the authenticity of the computer record need not have special qualifications and need not have  
21 programmed the computer or even understand the technical operation of a computer. *United States v.*  
22 *Miller*, 771 F.2d 1219, 1237 (9th Cir. 1985) ("It is not necessary that the computer programmer testify in  
23 order to authenticate the computer-generated records.") (citation omitted). Instead, the witness need  
24 only have first-hand knowledge of the facts to which he testifies, such as examining or seizing the  
25 computer from which the records were obtained. *United States v. Whitaker*, 127 F.3d 595, 601 (7th Cir.  
26 1997). The authenticity of a computer program is also generally not a bar to the admission of evidence  
27 derived from the use of such program. Such challenge is defeated by providing sufficient facts to  
28 support a finding that the records are trustworthy and the opposing party has the chance to inquire into

1 the accuracy of such records. *United States v. Briscoe*, 896 F.2d 1476 1494-1495 (7th Cir. 1990).  
2 Typically, the reliability of a computer program can be established by showing that the users of the  
3 program rely upon it on a regular basis. *Id.* at 1494 (holding that computerized records held by a  
4 telephone company were admissible).

5 In this case, Special Agent Boos, a trained computer forensic analyst, will testify that a computer  
6 forensic software, known as Axiom, was used to retrieve the data found on Colton's computer. The  
7 software is well-known and a generally-accepted means of conducting a forensic examination of a  
8 computer. The government does not anticipate an objection to the use of the forensic software in this  
9 investigation based on communications with defense counsel as well as because many defense experts  
10 rely upon the same program.

11 Additionally, the government may show the jury various items of evidence found on Colton's  
12 computer including, but not limited to, images of child pornography. On June 10, 2025, defense counsel  
13 reviewed the CSAM images with government counsel and Agent Boos.

14 **E. Summary Charts**

15 The government anticipates that Special Agent Allison Boos may use summary exhibits during  
16 her testimony. These summaries will show summary evidence of child sex abuse images and videos  
17 Colton obtained from the Internet. Given the number of videos and associated data, the government  
18 respectfully submits that summaries are appropriately admitted into evidence. *See* Fed. R. Evid. 1006;  
19 *United States v. Meyers*, 847 F.2d 1408, 1411-1412 (9th Cir. 1988). In particular, FRE 1006 provides  
20 that "the content of voluminous writings, recordings or photographs which cannot be conveniently  
21 examined in court" may be presented in the form of a "summary, chart or calculation." FRE 1006. The  
22 Ninth Circuit has recognized that summary evidence "can help the jury organize and evaluate evidence  
23 which is factually complex and fragmentally revealed in the testimony of the multitude of witnesses."  
24 *United States v. Shirley*, 884 F.2d 1130, 1133 (9th Cir. 1989); *see also Meyers*, 847 F.2d at 1412  
25 (approving the use of a summary witness where the sequence of events was confusing and the chart  
26 contributed to the clarity of presentation). Each of the aforementioned charts will be produced to  
27 counsel for the defendant in advance of trial, with the understanding that revisions may be made during  
28 trial, which will be disclosed as soon thereafter to counsel as possible.

1        **F.        Rule 414/404(b) Evidence**

2        Based on the defense team’s representation that they will not be putting on a defense or  
 3        contesting the majority of the elements, the government does not, at this time, anticipate seeking to  
 4        admit 414/404(b) evidence of Colton’s other sexual misconduct. However, should the defense change  
 5        strategies prior to or during trial, and seek to contest Colton’s knowledge or intent, the government will  
 6        seek to admit such evidence for the purposes allowed by rules 414 and 404(b). The government has  
 7        filed a detailed motion *in limine* regarding the admission of evidence of Colton’s other sexual  
 8        misconduct, should this become necessary. *See* ECF 60.

9        As described in the government’s motion *in limine*, Federal Rule of Evidence 414(a) provides:  
 10        “In a criminal case in which a defendant is accused of child molestation, the court may admit evidence  
 11        that the defendant committed *any other* child molestation. The evidence may be considered on any  
 12        matter to which it is relevant.” (emphasis added.) As defined, Rule 414’s reference to “child  
 13        molestation” broadly includes the receipt of child pornography. “Child molestation” is defined by Rule  
 14        414(d)(2)(B) to mean any crime under federal or state law involving “any conduct prohibited by 18  
 15        U.S.C. chapter 110,” which embraces the knowing receipt, by computer, of “any visual depiction”  
 16        involving “a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct.” 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(2); *see also United*  
 17        *States v. Seymour*, 468 F.3d 378, 385 (6th Cir. 2006). Thus, Rule 414 “create[d] an exception to the  
 18        general ban on propensity evidence contained in Rule 404(b).” *Seymour*, 468 F.3d at 384–85. Relevant  
 19        evidence of a defendant’s prior child molestation is admissible under Rule 414 unless “its probative  
 20        value is substantially outweighed by a danger of one or more of the following: unfair prejudice,  
 21        confusing the issues, misleading the jury, undue delay, wasting time, or needlessly presenting  
 22        cumulative evidence.” Fed. R. Evid. 403; *see United States v. Libbey-Tipton*, 948 F.3d 694, 701 (6th  
 23        Cir. 2020).

24        Additionally, other acts of sexual conduct may be admitted for more limited purposes specified  
 25        in Rule 404(b), including to prove “motive, opportunity, intent, preparation, plan, knowledge, identity,  
 26        absence of mistake, or lack of accident.” Fed. R. Evid. 404(b)(2). “Rule 404(b) is an ‘inclusionary  
 27        rule,’ under which evidence is inadmissible ‘only when it proves nothing but the defendant’s criminal  
 28        propensities.’” *United States v. Hadley*, 918 F.2d 848, 850 (9th Cir. 1990) (citation omitted).

1 “[E]vidence is admissible under Rule 404(b) if: (1) sufficient proof exists for the jury to find that the  
 2 defendant committed the [other] act; (2) the [other] act was not too remote in time; and (3) the [other]  
 3 act is introduced to prove a material issue in the case.” *Id.* at 850-51.

4 Here, the investigation of Colton revealed that he sought out, downloaded, possessed and deleted  
 5 CSAM images for over a decade. Should Colton ultimately contest that he did not knowingly or  
 6 intentionally download or receive child pornography, the government would seek to offer evidence of  
 7 Colton’s other child molestation offense conduct that occurred between 2010 and 2023. *See* ECF 60.

8       **G. Testimony Regarding a Person’s Age**

9       The government may elicit testimony from Special Agent Allison Boos concerning the apparent  
 10 age of the children depicted in images and videos of child pornography found on Colton’s computer.  
 11 The witness’ lay opinion testimony concerning the ages of the children depicted is admissible under  
 12 Federal Rule of Evidence 701, which “permits a lay witness to give opinion testimony as long as the  
 13 opinion is ‘(a) rationally based on the perception of the witness and (b) helpful to a clear understanding  
 14 of the witness’ testimony or the determination of a fact in issue.’” *United States v. Yazzie*, 976 F.2d  
 15 1252, 1255 (9th Cir. 1992) (quoting Fed. R. Evid. 701)

16       The Ninth Circuit is clear that expert testimony is not required to prove the age of children in  
 17 child pornography cases. *See United States v. Salcido*, 506 F.3d 729, 733-34 (9th Cir. 2007) (“We agree  
 18 with every other circuit that has ruled on the issue that expert testimony is not required for the  
 19 government to establish that the images depicted an actual minor. With respect to the quantum of  
 20 evidence necessary to support a conviction, there seems to be general agreement among the circuits that  
 21 pornographic images themselves are sufficient to prove the depiction of actual minors.”); *see also*  
 22 *United States v. Irving*, 452 F.3d 110, 121–22 (2d Cir. 2006) (rejecting claim that the government must  
 23 present extrinsic evidence to prove the reality of children in video images); *United States v. Slanina*, 359  
 24 F.3d 356, 357 (5th Cir. 2004) (per curiam) (holding extrinsic evidence was not required to prove reality  
 25 of children in images); *United States v. Kimler*, 335 F.3d 1132, 1142 (10th Cir. 2003) (“Juries are still  
 26 capable of distinguishing between real and virtual images....”); *United States v. Deaton*, 328 F.3d 454,  
 27 455 (8th Cir. 2003) (upholding jury determination that images depicted real children even where no  
 28 additional evidence was presented on the issue).

1 Therefore, it is proper for Agent Boos to testify about the apparent ages of the children depicted  
2 in the child pornography images and videos found on Colton's computer.

3 **H. Exclusion of Witnesses from the Courtroom and Designation of Case Agent**

4 Pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 615, on the morning of trial, the government will move to  
5 exclude all witnesses from the courtroom until their testimony has been completed. The government  
6 will further move that Special Agent Allison Boos be designated as the case agent and exempt from the  
7 exclusion order. Fed. R. Evid. 615; *see also United States v. Little*, 753 F.2d 1420, 1441 (9th Cir. 1985).

8 Rule 615 provides that, upon request by a party, the Court shall order witnesses excluded so that  
9 they cannot hear the testimony of other witnesses. Rule 615 alters prior practice by removing the matter  
10 from the trial judge's discretion and making it a matter of right, at the request of a party. Advisory  
11 Committee Note to Rule 615. Exceptions to the rule of exclusion are provided for: (1) a party who is a  
12 natural person; (2) an officer or employee of a party which is not a natural person designated as its  
13 representative by its attorney; or (3) a person whose presence a party shows to be essential to presenting  
14 the party's claim or defense (such as a mental health expert); or (4) a person authorized by statute to be  
15 present.

16 **I. Reciprocal Discovery**

17 The government has provided Colton with all required discovery in its possession or made it  
18 available for inspection. Under Rule 16 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, a defendant must  
19 disclose to the government all documents, objects, reports of examinations and tests, and written  
20 summary of any expert witness, that the defendant has within the defendant's possession, custody, or  
21 control and that the defendant intends to use in the defendant's case-in-chief at trial. Fed. R. Crim. P.  
22 16(b). The government has received no reciprocal discovery to date.

23 Should Colton seek to introduce any evidence that was not provided to the government prior to  
24 trial, and that should have been provided as reciprocal discovery, the government respectfully requests  
25 that the Court exclude such evidence, pursuant to Rule 16(d)(2) of the Federal Rules of Criminal  
26 Procedure.

27     ///

28     ///

1            **J. Defense Witness Statements**

2            The government informs the Court and Colton that should Colton call any witnesses (other than  
 3 himself) the government will request all witness statements to which it is entitled under Federal Rule of  
 4 Criminal Procedure 26.2 that are in the possession, custody, or control of Colton or his attorney and that  
 5 relate to the subject matter of the witness's testimony. Colton's failure to promptly collect and produce  
 6 these materials to the government may result in unnecessary trial delays and/or unfairly prejudice the  
 7 government.

8            **VI. FORFEITURE ALLEGATION**

9            The government also seeks to forfeit any and all interest Colton has his device upon which he  
 10 stored child pornography. The government seeks the forfeiture on the theory that the defendant used  
 11 this device to commit or to facilitate the commission of the crime alleged in the indictment, which is a  
 12 HP TPN I108 laptop computer, serial number: 5CG32530XY.

13            Here, the trial is to a jury, therefore, the "court must determine before the jury begins  
 14 deliberating whether either party requests that the jury be retained to determine the forfeitability of  
 15 specific property if it returns a guilty verdict." Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(b)(5). The Ninth Circuit has held  
 16 that Rule 32.2(b)(5) places an "affirmative duty on the court" to determine whether either the United  
 17 States or defendant requests a jury determination regarding forfeiture. *Mancuso*, 718 F.3d 780, 799 (9th  
 18 Cir. 2013). The inquiry must occur "before the jury retires." *Id.*

19            The government is exploring the possibility of a stipulation with the defense to proceed by bench  
 20 trial in the forfeiture phase.

21            **VII. CONCLUSION**

22            The foregoing is a summary of points the government anticipates may arise at trial. Should any  
 23 legal issues arise that have not been covered in this trial brief, the government respectfully requests  
 24 leave to submit further briefing as may be necessary.

25            Dated: July 3, 2025

26            MICHELLE BECKWITH  
 27            Acting United States Attorney

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 /s/ WHITNEE GOINS & /s/ SHEA J. KENNY  
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